

Message Text

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47

ACTION SY-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 NEA-10 OPR-02 M-03 A-01 /037 W

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R 251506 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9030

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1147

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AFSP

SUBJ: MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER MUDENDA TOLD AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 23 IN FIRST CALL SINCE RETURNING THAT CLEARANCE OF ONE MINISTRY NEEDED BEFORE SUBJECT GOES TO CABINET FOR DECISION. MUDENDA EXHIBITED STRONG PERSONAL BIAS AGAINST APPROVAL BECAUSE IN HIS JUDGMENT NO RPT NO IMMINENT THREAT EXISTS, NOTWITHSTANDING STRONG ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN EMBASSY'S AIDE MEMOIRE OF APRIL 13.

2. FONMIN GRATEFUL FOR ANSWERS TO HIS QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN CHARGE'S LETTER OF MAY 16 BUT PERSONALLY FAVORS " CONTINUING REVIEW OF SITUATION" RATHER THAN SECURITY GUARD.

3. AMBASSADOR ARGUED THAT TIGHTENED US SECURITY WAS WORLDWIDE PRECAUTION AND NOT LIMITED TO ANY ONE GEOGRAPHIC AREA HOWEVER UNLIKELY THREAT MAY SEEM. FONMIN PUZZLED AMBASSADOR WITH REFERENCE TO LIBYAN COL. QADHAFI AS HAVING SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL SETBACK WHICH SHOULD REDUCE THREAT FROM ARAB TERRORISTS (POSSIBLE REFERENCE TO SLAP AT LIBYA BY AFRICAN STATES DURING OAU TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE AT ADDIS).

4. WE INTEND TO PRESS FOR OUR OBJECTIVES AT STATE HOUSE IN HOPES OF INFLUENCING A FAVORABLE CABINET DECISION. HOWEVER, OUTLOOK NOT PROMISING AND WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE PREPARED TO OFFER COUNTER- PROPOSAL POSSIBLY ALONG LINES CONTAINED WILKOWSKI- GENTILE LETTER OF JUNE 22 OR OTHER ALTERNATIVE WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY SUGGEST.

WILKOWSKI

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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